

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

At new page 42, please insert the abstract printed on the following page for this application, as follows:

## **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

Disclosed are methods for identifying and evaluating the binding properties of substances to the amyloid precursor protein (APP) or to  $\beta$ -amyloid ( $A\beta$ ) fragments of APP. Also disclosed is a class of benzofuran derivatives of formula (I), which interact specifically with APP or  $A\beta$ , and block interaction of APP or  $A\beta$  with secretase or APP or  $A\beta$  binding antibodies.